

I. IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1 immediately following the header “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS”, with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation ~~application~~ of ~~U.S. patent~~ application [[Ser.]] No. 09/046,627, filed March 24, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,598,162, issued July 22, 2003 ~~(now awaiting issuance)~~, which is a continuation of ~~U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/587,943, filed January 17, 1996, (which issued April 28, 1998, as U.S. Patent No. 5,745,943)~~. The entire disclosure of ~~U.S. patent~~ application No. 09/046,627 is hereby incorporated by reference.